

January 24, 2019

SENT VIA EMAIL AND/OR TEXT MESSAGE

File No. 2018

RE: Unlawful Attempts to Influence Potential Witnesses and Obstruct an Investigation

Dear\_

You are receiving this letter because my investigators have been in contact with you regarding an investigation undertaken by this Office. The investigation is examining allegations of irregular financial contributions made to the Jeff Callaway campaign during the 2017 United Conservative Party leadership contest.

It has come to the attention of my Office that an individual has been contacting, or attempting to contact, one or more persons who are subjects in this investigation in order to dissuade cooperation with investigators and hinder the proper disposition of matters in order to avoid these proceedings.

The Office of the Election Commissioner takes allegations of obstruction very seriously. These allegations, if substantiated, may be contrary to Section 45-of the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* (EFCDA). Obstruction may also constitute a "corrupt practice" and be subject to significant penalties.

Section 45 of the EFDCA provides:

No person shall obstruct any person carrying out an inquiry, investigation or examination under this Act or withhold from that person or conceal or destroy any books, papers, documents or things relevant to the subject matter of the investigation or examination.

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## Section 50 of the EFCDA provides:

A person, political party or constituency association that contravenes any of the provisions of this Act, for which contravention no fine is otherwise provided, is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not more than \$10,000.

Section 176. of the Election Act provides:

A person who contravenes section 45, 46, or 47, of the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act commits a corrupt practice.

Section 177 of the Election Act provides:

(1) A person who commits as corrupt practice is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not more than \$50 000 or to imprisonment for not more than 2 years or to both fine and imprisonment.

If you have been contacted by any person who has, or has attempted to, influence your participation in this investigation it is very important that you bring this information to the attention of my Office immediately.

You will be asked whether you have been contacted by any person in order to dissuade your cooperation with investigators or hinder the proper disposition of matters in order to avoid the proceedings. You will be asked whether you have maintained a record of those conversations and communication.

You are welcome to contact my Office if you require additional information or have concerns related to this investigation. You can reach our Office by contacting Steve Kaye, Investigations Manager, at

Yours sincerely.

Lorne R. Gibson

Election Commissioner of Alberta

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